ACTIVIST NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF EQUALITY COLORADO
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EQUALITY COLORADO

JANUARY 1998

PALLONE HIGHLIGHTS LOBBY DAY

January 23 is Equality's Fourth Annual Lobby Day, which we're calling "Breakfast, Lunch & Lobby." The event is a chance to learn about the legislative process, meet your legislators and fellow activists, and chow down. The day features the following:

- Our annual legislative breakfast (starting at 7:30 a.m.), during which you can talk to your legislators on an informal basis. Location: State Capitol, 2nd floor.
- Trainings on how the legislature works and a tour of the state capitol.
- Luncheon featuring keynote speaker Dave Pallone, former Major League Baseball Umpire and author of the best-seller *Behind the Mask: My Double Life in Baseball*. Location: Central Presbyterian Church, 17th and Sherman.

The cost for the day is $5 for the trainings and $15 for the luncheon ($20 after Jan. 16). The luncheon will be catered by the Women's Bean Project. **SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.**

ACTION!

▸ Register now for this very exciting event. Call us at (303) 839-5540 or email equalityco@aol.com. If you can't make the entire day but are free for lunch, you can register just for the luncheon. Last year we had over 50 people from across Colorado — we're hoping to increase that number and let legislators know how many of their constituents are out there paying attention!

Grand Junction in a Tizzy over Marriage

When a student at Mesa State College in Grand Junction asked her Psychology Club to endorse the Marriage Resolution, she had no idea that it would become *the* hot topic in the *Daily Sentinel*, Grand Junction's local paper. But several letters to the editor later, she found that it was what everyone wanted to talk about. So even though the club still hasn't signed the resolution, Grand Junction has become a prime spot for education on this important issue. As we know, merely having the discussion is very important. Next month, the club has planned a debate on the subject, which promises to be very well-attended.

ACTION!

▸ Now it's your turn. If you are affiliated with a college, ask various campus clubs to sign on to the Marriage Resolution. Remember, National Freedom to Marry Day is Feb. 12. Call (303) 839-5540 x4 or email ecjonathan@aol.com for more.

Legislative Session Kicks Off — PRA Back!

On the first day of the Colorado General Assembly's 1998 session, Rep. Penn Pfiffner (R-Lakewood) introduced a bill (HB1032) virtually identical to the Parental Rights Amendment rejected handily by voters in 1996, and opposed by Equality Colorado. Another bill, HB 1090, sponsored by Rep. Doug Dean (R-Colorado Springs), would allow teachers to be fired for "immorality," and allows the State Board of Education to define the term. Equality's Hate Crimes and Civil Rights Bills will be introduced towards the end of January. They should go to committee soon thereafter. Other bills we're looking at include legislation legalizing Needle Exchange Programs (which we support), and possible bills banning same-sex marriage, domestic partnership, and same-sex adoption.

ACTION!

▸ If you are not already on Equality's email activist network, we'll sign you up. Just send us a note at equalityco@aol.com. Also, we're still trying to fill some key spots in our phone tree. If you'd like to be a local captain, call Jonathan at (303) 839-5540 x4.

Join Us for MLK Day Events

Monday, January 19 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and Equality is celebrating with two key events. In the morning, we'll be marching in Denver's annual Marade. We'll be meeting at City Park, near the King statue, at around 8:30 that morning. Look for the Rainbow Flag and Equality's banner! Later that day, we will be cosponsoring a town meeting called "Beyond Rage and Blame: Racial Healing in the GLBT Community." Dani Newsum, local media personality, will be leading this discussion of race and racism within the community. It will be at MCC of the Rockies, 980 Clarkson St. in Denver, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

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VOF Workshops

Voices of Faith is sponsoring two upcoming workshops. The first, "Integrating our Sexuality and Spirituality: An Interfaith Perspective," will be Saturday, January 31 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The workshop will address topics such as the difference between religion and spirituality, understanding God and oneself, and the role of forgiveness and ritual. The second workshop, "Spirituality and Relationships" will be Saturday, February 14, and will explore the interaction and impact of our spirituality on our primary relationships.

ACTION! For location and to register for these events, call Laurene at (303) 839-5540 x3 or email eclaurene@aol.com.

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Domestic Partnership Public Hearings

The Governor's Commission on Rights and Responsibilities of Same-Sex Couples will hold 5 public hearings on Wed., March 4. The sites for the meetings include Denver, Colorado Springs, Grand Junction, and two more sites (one in the mountains, one in Northern Colorado) to be determined. At these hearings, community members will have the chance to air their views on domestic partnership rights and same-sex couples will be able to tell their stories of unequal treatment.

ACTION! Help Equality Colorado mobilize a strong turnout for these meetings. Call us at (303) 839-5540.

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Fort Collins Update

The Fort Collins City Council has set up three more public hearings on the issue of the revised Human Rights Ordinance, for Feb. 10, Feb. 17, and March 3. A poll of the City Line from December 3-6 shows that 17 callers supported the inclusion of sexual orientation, 31 opposed it, and 26 expressed no opinion other than to say that they favored a referendum on the issue. The issue of inclusion of transgender people will be talked about at a February 4 educational forum sponsored by SOGLB at Colorado State University.

Notes & Updates

AVP to hold new volunteer trainings: The Anti-Violence Project of Equality Colorado will hold trainings for new volunteers in February. To register, call Rebecca at (303) 839-5540 x2 or email ecrebecca@aol.com... **New Jersey couples can jointly adopt:** Unmarried couples — including same-sex couples — in New Jersey won the right to jointly adopt children last month. In a settlement of a lawsuit brought by same-sex couples and the ACLU, a state court said that children under the state's custody can be placed in such homes, which many hope will provide permanent homes for the state's foster kids... **Cayman Islands turns away ship with gay passengers:** The Cayman Islands refused to let a ship dock there because much of its clientele was gay. The tour company, Atlantis Events Inc., was told that the country "cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands."

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New Parents Group Forms

A Gay and Lesbian Parents group has formed. It meets in Denver on the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The group is open to any GLBT individuals or couples who are already parents, planning to become parents, or thinking about it. Bring a snack or beverage, and your kids. For more information, call Kathryn at (303) 455-4612 or email RavenwoodG@boulder.lib.co.us.

EQUALITY CALENDAR

January 1998

19 • "Beyond Rage and Blame: Racial Healing in the GLBT Community" Town meeting cosponsored by Equality CO, La Gente Unida, Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum, Men of All Colors, and the Mayor's Gay and Lesbian Advisory Committee. Monday, January 19, 6:30 - 8:30 a.m., MCC of the Rockies, 980 Clarkson, Denver.

23 • Breakfast, Lunch & Lobby Equality Colorado's fourth annual Lobby Day at the State Capitol building in Denver. $5 for morning trainings, $15 for luncheon featuring keynote speaker Dave Pallone. The catered luncheon will be at Central Presbyterian Church, 17th & Sherman.

February 1998

1 • Equality Day at the Xplosion! Watch professional women's basketball at its finest. 5:00 p.m. at Denver's McNichol's Arena. Pre-game party at Xplosion Headquarters. Tickets are $13 for the game, and $25 for the game and party.